

Talking Points on ATK Announcement
Monday, Feb. 2, 2009
2:30 p.m.

*****VERY IMPORTANT: DO NOT MENTION AIRBUS!*****

- Good afternoon.
- Today, I am pleased to announce that Alliant Techsystems, Inc., known by the stock symbol ATK, will manufacture composite structures and composite engines for commercial aircraft at its Iuka, Miss., facility.
- The decision to locate these advanced-manufacturing operations at the company's Tishomingo County site will result in a sizeable expansion there.
- The expansion is expected to retain the 176 jobs currently at the facility, and the ATK workforce will grow to some 800 employees over the next eight years.
- I have advised Lt. Gov. Bryant and Speaker McCoy about this project, as well as House Ways and Means Chairman Watson and Senate Finance Chairman Kirby. I will ask the Legislature to approve a \$25 million incentive package to refurbish a publicly-owned building at the site that ATK will use for tooling and equipment.
- Let me share with you a little bit about what ATK will be producing. The composite structures to be built in Iuka form the "skeleton"—the backbone and the ribs—of next-generation commercial aircraft.
- Composite structural components are strong and light-weight and deliver fuel efficiencies and operability that aircraft made with traditional metal structures cannot

match. The use of composite materials in the production of commercial aircraft and aircraft engines is the future of the aviation industry.

- ATK chose to locate these operations in Mississippi partly because we already have an established record when it comes to engineering and manufacturing advanced composite materials.
- ATK has a strong customer base with a recent contract from Rolls Royce Group to make engine fan cases. The company expects to see commercial aerospace fabrication contracts in excess of \$1 billion in orders overall this year.
- The University of Southern Mississippi has one of the top polymer programs in the country, and the Polymer Research Institute at USM houses one of the most advanced rapid prototyping systems in the world.
- The Raspet Flight Laboratory at Mississippi State has a long history of research into flight and structural mechanics and includes a complete aircraft manufacturing facility.
- And in undertaking the production of composite aircraft and engine components here, ATK joins numerous other aerospace and aviation companies that also call Mississippi home.
- I applaud ATK for choosing to expand its operations here in our state. This is a strong testament to the ability of Mississippi's skilled workforce to get the job – any job – done, and do it in competition on a world stage in the most advanced technologies.
- I also want to thank the local officials in Tishomingo County and the staff at MDA that helped make this project a success.

Q&A

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NOTE TO YOU: If anyone asks about the eight years the company has to create these jobs (as it is a much longer time period than usual in these types of projects), an appropriate response would be: "Because of the unusual time frame for these jobs to be created, I have instructed MDA to include in the MOU between the State and the company some of the toughest clawback provisions we have ever put into an MOU."